

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for transferring data files from a local drive medium to a redundant array of independent disks (RAID) controller flash memory, comprising:

obtaining a data file from ~~a~~ the local drive;

adding a signature to the data file to form a transferable file; and

if needed, padding the transferable file to ensure a same number of bytes in each transfer of portions of the transferable file from the local drive ~~medium~~ to a flash memory of a RAID controller.

2. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the signature is formed from two or more bytes.

3. (Original) The method of Claim 2, wherein the signature is formed from four bytes.

4. (Original) The method of Claim 2, wherein the signature is formed from eight bytes.

5. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein each of the portions of the transferable file contains 128 bytes.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein each of the portions of the transferable file contains 1024 bytes.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein data in the data file is either in American Standard Code for Information Interchange (ASCII) format or in Extended Binary Coded Decimal Interchange Code (EBCDIC) format.

8. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the method ensures data integrity when a terminal emulation program is used to access the data file.

9. (Original) The method of Claim 8, further comprising storing the transferable file in a buffer in the RAID controller.

10. (Original) The method of Claim 9, further comprising identifying the padded signature of the transferable file, identifying the end of the data file, and writing the data file to the flash memory.

11. (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:

a redundant array of independent disks (RAID) controller having a flash memory; and

a host having two or more disk drives, the host being coupled to the RAID controller, wherein a selected one of [[on]] the two or more disk drives is capable of transferring a data file to the RAID controller by attaching a multibyte signature to the end of the data file before transfer, the signature being attached through the operation of a utility program, the RAID controller containing software that recognizes the multibyte signature attached to the end of the data file before transfer wherein the data file contains multiple data words, each of the multiple data words having multiple bytes, and wherein the signature forms a portion of one or two data words, the data file being further padded with a terminal emulation program specific pattern after the signature in the data file if a last byte of the signature does not coincide with a last byte of a last data word.

12-16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 11 [[16]], wherein the specific pattern is either 0x00 or 0x1A.

18. (Original) The system of Claim 17, wherein the signature includes alternating bytes of 0xFF and 0x00.

19. (Original) The system of Claim 17, wherein the signature includes a byte having a value other than 0xFF and 0x00.

20. (Original) The system of Claim 17, wherein the signature is formed of alphanumeric characters.

21. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 11 [[16]], wherein data integrity is maintained when a terminal emulation program is used.

22. (Original) The system of Claim 21, wherein the terminal emulation program recognizes a different end of file patched data pattern than does a file transfer program used by the system.

23-25. (Canceled)

**Amendments to the Drawings:**

The three (3) attached sheets of drawings include changes to FIGS. 5-7. These sheets, which include FIGS. 5-7, replace the original sheets including FIGS. 5-7. A legend of "(Prior Art)" has been added to each figure of FIGS. 5-7.

Attachment: Three (3) replacement sheets